and selling them at reduced prices, compounding of offences under the Essential Commodities Act, establishment of DPCO cells in all States on the model of Karnataka, price negotiations at the time of launching of a new patented drug, efforts to increase public awareness, wide publicity to policies and decisions of the Government and NPPA etc. Follow-up action on the recommendations made by the Committee in its interim report has been initiated.

Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. During its meetings, the Task Force deliberated upon almost all the recommendations made in its Interim Report by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.

Unauthorised Homoeopathic Medical Colleges in Assam

*153. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some unregistered private homoeopathic colleges are mushrooming without affiliation from either the Central Council of Homoeopathy or the Assam State Homeopathic Board, which affects the reputation of the homoeopathic system of medicine and also exposes the patients seeking treatment to a grave danger;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to identify such bogus institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), had received information about some unrecognized Homoeopathic institutions operating in the State of Assam. Accordingly, they brought it to the notice of the State Government and requested to publish in the newspapers a notice about the institutions of Homoeopathy which are recognized by CCH and also to take stern action against such institutions.

Recently, a complaint was also received by Central Council of Homoeopathy dated 28.05.2005 regarding one such organization operating

in Assam from All Assam Homoeopathic Doctors Association, Guwahati, Assam. CCH has forwarded it to Health Minister of Assam with a request to take immediate steps to stop the activities of such institutions/colleges in Assam.

As per information received from the Government of Assam, the State Government on receipt of certain complaints, have started an enquiry about the existence of unregistered Homoeopathic colleges/institutions. Reports from 7 districts out of 27 districts have been received indicating that in those districts there are no such institutions. The other 20 districts are being reminded by the State Government to expedite submission of their reports. The State Government has said that strict measures would be taken against such institutions, if found in existence.

Government of India have brought out an advertisement enclosed as statement (*see* below) in newspapers all over India covering most of the States and the vernacular languages, *inter alia,* cautioning such colleges/ persons/organizations against opening of any Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic Medical College without the prior permission of the Central Government and also cautioning students/applicants against seeking admission in such Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy Medical Colleges not duly permitted by Government of India. The list of recognized Homoeopathic Colleges has also been placed on the web-site of the Central Council of Homoeopathy *(www.cchindia.com).*

Statement

Attention of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Colleges and General Public

Regulations for Educational Institutions

According to Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Act, 2003 and Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Act, 2002, no person/ organization **without the prior permission of the Central Government** shall establish an:

(a) Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic Medical College;

(b) Open a new or higher course of study of training (including post-graduate course of study or training); and

(c) Increase its admission capacity in any course of study or training (including the post-graduate course of study or training).

The establishment of any college of Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani after 7th November, 2003 and after 28th January, 2003 in case of Homoeopathic Courses **without prior permission of the Government of India** would not be valid for providing recognized qualification for medical practice.

The students/applicants while taking admission in any college referred to at (a) must ensure and satisfy themselves that the new Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani or Homoeopathy College in which they are seeking admission is duly permitted by the Government of India.

The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Act, 2003 also provides that all Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Colleges which were established prior to 7th November, 2003, shall obtain permission of the Central Government by 6th November, 2006.

The list of recognized Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Colleges may be downloaded from the website of Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM): www.ccimindia.org. The list of recognized Homoeopathy Colleges may be downloaded from the website of Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH): www.cchindia.com.

Secretary,
Department of Ayurveda, Yoga &
Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

Rise in prices of essential commodities

*154. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the public at large on account of abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities in general and specially of onion and other vegetables during the months of October and November, 2005;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for the steep rise in prices of all the commodities which had hurt the lower strata of the Society; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?